Task force on quality management education

2224. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has constituted a task force in order to impart quality management education in semi-urban and rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Task Force has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the details of recommendations made by this task force; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken on those recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Revamping of examination system

2225. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether NCERT has a plan for a major revamp of the examination system for classes X and XII;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether NCERT has set up a Focus Group to advise and guide it;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for its formation; and

(e) the time frame the NCERT requires to revamp the system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) National Curriculum Framework (NCF) – 2005, prepared by National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), has recommended review of the pattern of examination, including (i) to shift from content based testing to problem solving and competency based testing, (ii) not to have Board of State level examination at lower stages of schooling like Classes V, VII, and XI, (iii) flexibility in examination time, (iv) to conduct examination in nearby schools, (v) to conduct re-examination immediately after announcement of results, (vi) to make available guidance and counseling in schools, etc.

(c) and (d) In order to provide inputs for preparation of NCF-2005, NCERT had constituted 21 Focus Groups on different subject areas to prepare position papers. A Focus Group was constituted in the subject area of 'Examination Reforms'. The group had 15 members including educationists and teachers.

(e) It is for the Examination Boards in the country to take steps on examination reforms based on the recommendations of NCF-2005. NCERT has organized a number of orientation and training programmes for the Boards regarding examination reforms. Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has already taken several steps for examination reforms recommended by NCF-2005.

Establishment of a Central University in Goa

2226. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the only State University in Goa namely the Goa University, is proposed to be upgraded to a Central University;

(b) why the decision was taken to upgrade Goa University into a Central University, instead of setting up a separate University;

(c) whether under the scheme of the proposed Central University, students of the State would get reservation on the basis of their region; and

(d) if not, the details as to how the aspirations of local students would be met by a Central University?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) On a specific request of the State Government for conversion of Goa University into a Central University instead of establishment of a new Central University in the State, conversion of Goa University into a Central University was included in the Central Universities Bill, 2008 introduced in the Lok Sabha on 23.10.2008. However, in view of the subsequent request of the State Government as also the recommendation of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development, it is now proposed to move official amendments to the Central Universities Bill, 2008 to drop the provisions relating to the conversion of Goa University into a Central University.

Development of higher education

†2227. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's approach towards holistic development of higher education has been very disappointing;

(b) whether it is also a fact that progress of higher education has been left at the mercy of private sector;

(c) if not, the details of achievement made during the last three years;

(d) whether Government is contemplating upon a scheme for holistic development of higher education; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the details of proposals under consideration for the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) No, Sir. The Government has been making continuous efforts for increasing access, improving quality and ensuring relevance in the field of higher education as evident from the Eleventh Plan in this regard. While not-for-profit private participation only supplements Governmental efforts, and such participation has been mostly confined to technical and professional education, public outlays have been increased several fold for the Eleventh Plan.

A Central Act, namely the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006 has been enacted to provide for reservation in admission of the students belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes of citizens, to certain Central Educational

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.